United Nations A/AC.253/L.5

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
24 May 1999

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives

First session
17–28 May 1999
Agenda items 3 and 4

Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit

Proposed outcome of the first substantive session

Text submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee

The Chairman's working draft is in three parts:

Part I, Reaffirmation of Copenhagen, contains a short suggested draft text that could form a basis for the text to be eventually adopted at the special session at Geneva in 2000.

Part II, Review and assessment of implementation, contains a short draft text for consideration and action at the first substantive (i.e., current) session of the Preparatory Committee, recognizing that the comprehensive review will be possible only when the national reports have been received and collated.

Part III, Further initiatives for inclusion in the outcome of the special session, contains elements for inclusion and elaboration by the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session in April 2000 and eventual adoption by the General Assembly at the special session and also for consideration and decision at the current session of the Committee. It includes proposals requiring further preparatory work and analysis by the Secretariat and other entities of the United Nations system before the Preparatory Committee's second session.

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Part I

Reaffirmation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Summit for Social Development

1. Five years have passed since, for the first time in history, at the invitation of the United Nations, Heads of State and Government gathered to recognize the significance of social development and human well-being for all and to give these goals the highest priority both now and into the twenty-first century.

2. On the present occasion we came together:

To solemnly reaffirm our commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, held in March 1995;

To review and assess progress with the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in Copenhagen;

To consider further initiatives to ensure that the commitments are realized in tangible, effective ways for the betterment of the human condition.

3. Our assessment of the progress made with implementation is set out below. There has been one major unambiguously positive development since the Summit, the very obvious shift toward recognizing the centrality of social development in our political priorities and in our thinking, in Governments and in organizations that embody the international community.

4. This evolving perception presents us with a new opportunity and we intend fully to seize it. In reaffirming the Declaration and Programme of Action agreed in Copenhagen, we are determined to give new momentum to the Programme of Action and accelerate the implementation of those instruments, including by means of the further initiatives we as Governments have here agreed on and which are set out below. We also invite all people in all countries and in all walks of life, individually and through the various organizations of which they are a part, local and national, as well as international, to join us in our common cause.

Part II

Review and assessment of implementation

1. The preliminary assessment of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit indicates the initiation of many new policies and programmes and shifts in emphasis or direction. The Summit has clearly also had an impact on the United Nations system, refocusing its activities and galvanizing action. It is equally clear that the national and international policy responses have been uneven, with little progress apparent in some key areas. Achieving the goals established at the Summit will be a lengthy and complicated process.

2. Given the nature and the broad scope of many of the goals and targets set in Copenhagen and the inevitable lag between initiation of policies and visible results, a comprehensive evaluation of the impact of policies and programmes put in place since Copenhagen will take time. Information for a fuller global assessment will become available as national Governments report the results of their own national assessments in the course of the year and international organizations report on their latest activities.

3. At Copenhagen, quantitative targets were adopted or reaffirmed in the area of basic social services (16) and official development assistance (2). Twelve targets included a time-frame: in six cases the target date was set as the year 2000. The compilation of robust data to evaluate progress in the areas covered by the targets presents many problems. Since the Summit a concerted effort has been made to improve the quality, timeliness and country coverage of data. A solid statistical baseline has been established by the above-mentioned quantitative targets that will facilitate future assessment of progress and evaluation of related programmes.

4. The review and assessment of implementation to be undertaken at the special session could be structured around the following three topics:

(a) Initiatives already taken by Governments and international organizations;

(b) Experience gained so far;

(c) Internal and external constraints to implementation.

5. The review and assessment will necessarily be made against a background of continuing global change and unfolding long-term developments as well as temporary shocks and unforeseen set-backs. A number of developments, especially those typically associated with

globalization, have combined to turn local set-backs into potential threats to the system. The emerging international economic and financial system was put to a severe test in recent years and many weak points were revealed. Yet the lessons learned from these set-backs, and many of the long-term developments associated with globalization, are capable of also bringing benefits and, if applied through changes to policy and attitudes, will facilitate the achievement of the Copenhagen aspirations.

Part III

Further initiatives

Commitment 1

An enabling environment for social development

1. The World Summit for Social Development redefined the concept of development, insisting that people must be at the centre of sustainable development. Therefore, people must have the right and the ability to participate fully in the economic, political and social life of their societies. This requires fuller democratization and transparent governance not only of national but also of international economic and political institutions and structures. Full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and peace and security are also crucial for social development.

2. Since the Summit the extent and pace of global integration has accelerated as the result of liberalization and revolutions in technology and communications. Globalization and in particular financial liberalization, the extent of resources control by the private sector and corporate strategies for investment have at the same time far outstripped the capacity of Governments and of the international community to monitor and manage these processes for the benefit of all segments of society. Also, growth has often not been balanced or sustainable and, even during times of economic progress, the distribution of income and wealth has commonly become more inequitable. Current patterns of market-driven globalization may even give rise to marginalization within and among countries. As a result, there is an acute need to increase the effectiveness of international institutions as well as Governments in adapting to the new social challenges raised by globalization.

3. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the following further initiatives:

4. Requesting the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the conclusions of current research to assess the **impact of globalization on social policy** and to make recommendations for further action.

5. Requesting the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the funds and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare proposals on **sound principles and good practices for social policy** for the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

6. Requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the development of guidelines on the **social responsibilities of the private sector.** The International Labour Organization, in consultation with its tripartite constituents, is invited to contribute to the preparation of that report.

7. Strengthening the **capacities of developing countries to effectively participate** in the increasingly globalized economy through:

(a) Facilitating the transfer of appropriate technology, knowledge and information to developing countries;

(b) Encouraging a greater opening of international markets to the products of developing countries, refraining from any unilateral measure inconsistent with international law or the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Inviting the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to carry out a joint assessment of the sectors and products where action could be taken by developed countries to further open their markets to the exports of developing countries;

(d) Supporting the accessibility of developing countries to the World Trade Organization;

(e) Providing technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to develop their capacities to more fully and equally participate in international negotiations, including trade negotiations and the WTO dispute settlement mechanism; establishing a global participation fund, possibly under the auspices of UNCTAD, for this purpose;

(f) Inviting UNCTAD and the World Bank to jointly study the feasibility of establishing an infrastructure fund to assist with the development of infrastructure for social development in developing countries.

8. Applying agreed principles of good governance, transparency and accountability to **international financial institutions** to ensure equity in their management and

operations and a central position for social development in their policies and programmes.

9. Enhancing good governance, democracy and transparency in decision-making, accountability to the people, empowerment of women, partnership with social organizations and local participation to ensure equity and social development.

10. Inviting the International Law Commission to consider the development of an international legal instrument for combating corruption, and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this proposal.

11. Recommending inclusion in the agenda of the high-level international intergovernmental forum on **financing for development** of such issues as strengthening the framework for monitoring and operation of international financial markets; constraining the volatility of short-term financial flows; supporting the further development of national banking and financial systems; and mobilizing financial resources for social development.

12. Requesting the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to review progress achieved since the Summit in the ratification and implementation of existing international conventions and covenants to promote and protect all **human rights and fundamental freedoms**.

Commitment 2

Poverty eradication

13. Recognizing that efforts to eradicate poverty are necessarily long-term, it is nevertheless disquieting to admit that progress to reach this goal has been erratic and slow, and that well over a billion people still live in abject poverty. Poverty eradication must remain central to all development strategies and in policy-making at all levels. The approach should be holistic, multi-pronged and broad-based. Targeted policies must be complemented by strategies of economic growth in favour of people living in poverty, as well as support to grass-roots organizations that encourage participation and empowerment, and enhanced international support of national efforts.

14. One reason for the continuation of poverty is the continuation and growth of inequitable distribution of income and wealth; inequality is reinforcing and self-perpetuating. A necessary condition for the creation of more just and harmonious societies is strengthening of policies in support of more equitable distribution of income and wealth. Provision of essential social services, in particular basic education and primary health care, is fundamental. Improved social security systems, social protection and local informal networks are all key elements of an integrated approach to eradicating poverty.

15. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the following initiatives:

16. That the General Assembly at its special session adopt a **global poverty reduction target** to reduce by one half the number of people living in extreme poverty by the year 2015. The Committee invites the President of the World Bank and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, when preparing their upcoming major reports on poverty reduction (the World Development Report 2000 and the second report on overcoming human poverty, respectively), to recommend additional strategies, policies and programmes for poverty eradication to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

17. Encouraging countries that have not yet done so to incorporate national poverty reduction targets into their **national strategies** for socio-economic development and to revise their national strategies by including such aspects as:

(a) Ensuring that macroeconomic policies reflect and fully integrate employment growth and poverty reduction goals;

(b) Strengthening linkages between macro- and micro-level anti-poverty programmes;

(c) Using employment policies to reduce poverty, including self-employment;

(d) Encouraging rural development;

(e) Supporting means for improving the productivity of the informal sector;

(f) Developing and promoting institutional capacities (e.g., by management training);

(g) Ensuring a gender equity perspective throughout;

(h) Targeting groups with special needs;

(i) Restructuring public expenditure policies to maximize their impact on poverty;

(j) Improving access for people living in poverty to productive resources;

(k) Encouraging the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(l) Establishing credit and micro-finance schemes adapted to the needs and potentials of marginalized people and vulnerable groups;

(m) Improving social protection systems;

(n) Ensuring community participation in poverty reduction strategies.

18. Requesting the Secretary-General to undertake further efforts to **evaluate the achievement of international targets** aiming to meet the basic human needs of all and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

19. Inviting the International Labour Office, in cooperation with the relevant offices of the United Nations system and the International Social Security Association, to prepare a report for the second session of the Preparatory Committee containing recommendations for further action in the field of **social protection** to be taken at the special session; interested Governments are invited to provide support.

20. Recommending that Governments evaluate the effectiveness of national tax systems as mechanisms for **redistribution** and support for people living in poverty, and adopt the appropriate measures.

21. Encouraging international support to **countries with economies in transition** in order to assist them:

(a) To combine universal coverage of social services with targeted assistance to the most vulnerable groups to ease the pains of transition;

(b) To implement policies to involve those individuals marginalized by the transition and overcome exclusion and further deprivation;

(c) To prevent a decline in public resources for social programmes.

Commitment 3

Full employment

22. Income-earning opportunities for all who want them are essential to the realization of the three central Summit goals, namely, poverty eradication, employment growth and social integration. Since Copenhagen, most Governments have made employment growth a pillar of their strategy for economic and social development and have implemented policies aimed at enhancing productive employment and reducing unemployment. The rapid globalization of the world economy, the financial crisis, continuously advancing technologies and the growth of informal and unprotected forms of employment are posing new challenges which make the goal of achieving and maintaining full employment more complex. Globalization has had manifestations not only on trade and capital flows, but also on labour markets, with implications for both internal and international migration.

23. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the following further initiatives:

24. Inviting the International Labour Office to prepare a programme of national and regional action plans for achieving **full employment** in an integrating world economy and to submit it to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; the report could propose a strategy and plan of implementation which could include analytical and research components, policy implications and recommendations for action, and country-level operational activities.

25. Refocusing national **macroeconomic policies** so that employment growth and poverty reduction become central and are sought simultaneously with low inflation.

26. Inviting the United Nations in cooperation with the International Labour Office to prepare proposals to strengthen procedures and institutions for **social dialogue**; this should include specific proposals for strengthening representative employer and worker organizations.

27. Encouraging Governments to comply with the **ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work**; within this framework national action is called for through the adoption of a proposed new ILO convention on the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour; further action is required to promote and apply the principles embodied in other ILO conventions, including those on employment policy and providing protection to migrant workers.

28. Inviting the World Bank and the International Labour Office to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its second session a brief report indicating the scope for increasing the employment potential of infrastructure development and the employment impact of World Bank infrastructure loans as well as a strategy for expanding international cooperation in this field.

29. Strengthening legislation on **minimum wages** and the implementation, and promoting efficient labour-intensive methods of production.

Commitment 4

Promoting social integration

30. Since the Summit, social inequalities have risen in virtually all countries and inequities between countries have also become more severe. Deprivation is threatening social stability and peace in many countries. Among other ills are the disintegration of the family, drug-abuse, trafficking in human beings, the exploitation of children and women, violence against women, other forms of crime, ethnic strife, civil wars, foreign occupation and acts of terrorism. National efforts to advance social integration have often been undermined by the lack of funding. Social cohesion and

solidarity is a fundamental condition of development and social progress, and efforts to develop and reinforce institutions and mechanisms encouraging social integration have to be sustained. In every country, there is extensive untapped potential that could be utilized.

31. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the following further initiatives:

32. Strengthening mechanisms for participation, cooperation and **dialogue** among all levels of government and other social actors as a contribution to integration; the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development is invited to undertake a review of existing national institutional arrangements for social integration and report on the lessons learned to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; interested Governments are urged to support this project.

33. Strengthening support for **civil society**, including community organizations working with groups with **specific needs** and accelerating implementation of United Nations instruments relating to those groups.

34. Strengthening the international legal protection of **the family**. The Commission on Human Rights is invited to consider the development of an international legal instrument for this purpose.

35. Promoting the contribution that **volunteering** can make to the creation of caring societies as an additional mechanism in the promotion of social integration; the Commission for Social Development is invited to consider the issue in 2001, the International Year of Volunteers.

36. Further strengthening the capacity of organizations working for **conflict resolution** and conflict prevention and requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on suggested means to achieve this.

Commitment 5

Equality and equity between women and men

37. The elimination of discrimination against women and their empowerment and full participation in all areas of life and at all levels should be priority objectives at the national as well as the international level, and an intrinsic part of social development. Equitable social development requires the mainstreaming of gender considerations in all levels of policy-making and in the planning of programmes and projects. Despite some progress, gender mainstreaming is not yet universal, and gender-based inequality continues in many areas of most societies.

38. Specific issues related to gender and the status of women will be taken up at the special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held early in June 2000, on the theme "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

39. The Preparatory Committee reiterates the commitment to ensure that **gender is mainstreamed** within all proposals for further initiatives related to each of the commitments made at the Summit by, *inter alia*, evaluating the gender implications of proposals and taking action to correct situations in which women are disadvantaged. The use of **affirmative action** programmes is commended to both Governments and international organizations.

40. Encouraging Governments to strive to ratify the **Optional Protocol** to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in time to enable it to enter into force before the special session.

Commitment 6

Universal and equitable access to quality education and health services

41. Since the Summit, many Governments have undertaken policies to implement the goals of attaining universal and equitable access to quality basic social services. However, in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the improvement of education and health has been hampered by factors such as resource constraints and the effects of economic reform and structural adjustment programmes and other constraints. The Summit set such time-bound targets as achieving universal primary education and access to basic health services by the year 2015, as well as specifying targets for improvements in infant, child and maternal mortality and life expectancy, access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Yet without more concerted action these targets will not be achieved in many countries. Supportive international policies are essential to enhance the provision of social services.

42. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the following further initiatives:

43. Inviting the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank to formulate a **global action plan for all by the year 2015**, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

44. Inviting the World Health Organization, in consultation with the World Bank and other interested organizations of the United Nations system, to elaborate a

global action plan for basic health services by the year 2015, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

45. Inviting the World Health Organization to consider improving partnerships between the public and private sectors in the area of health research.

Commitment 7

Acceleration of development in Africa and in the least developed countries

46. Most African countries have attempted to implement the commitments made at Copenhagen but internal and external constraints continue to make progress extremely difficult. Full implementation of the commitments requires the mobilization of all development actors, at national and international levels, to accelerate the economic and social development of Africa and the least developed countries through a holistic approach. Initiatives outlined under each of the other commitments, such as those relating to equitable access to education and health services, income-earning opportunities, land, credit, infrastructure, technology, official development assistance and debt are vital to Africa and the least developed countries and these are not repeated here. However, they must be implemented with particular regard to their importance for countries in this group.

47. In addition, the Preparatory Committee recommends that:

(a) Concerted efforts be made by international organizations and powerful countries to establish **favourable conditions for the fuller and equitable integration** of African and the least developed countries into the global community;

(b) Inviting the United Nations Secretariat, in conjunction with UNCTAD, to review again the proposal to establish a **commodities diversification facility** and to make a recommendation to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, in view of the importance of reducing dependence on one or a few commodities;

(c) Encouraging the 25 African countries most affected by **HIV/AIDS** to adopt a target of reducing infection levels in young people by 25 per cent by 2005; and inviting the World Health Organization, in conjunction with the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, to prepare and propose means for implementing a strategy for achieving this target.

Commitment 8

Inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes

48. Governments at the Summit made a commitment to ensuring the inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes. Yet some of the programmes prescribed by the international financial institutions have continued to be a matter of concern. In too many cases, the social cost of the implementation of structural adjustment programmes has still been too high. While recent steps taken by some international financial institutions, including the World Bank, have aimed at better integration of social concerns into the design of structural adjustment programmes, the International Monetary Fund has sometimes given inadequate attention to protecting public spending even for essential social services. As a result, there have been substantial welfare losses for the population at large, and for the low-income and disadvantaged groups in particular.

49. The Preparatory Committee therefore recommends the following initiatives:

50. Adoption by international financial institutions of the principle of **full integration of economic and social policies** at the inception of any reform package, including the design of structural adjustment programmes to promote the goals of macroeconomic stabilization.

51. Affirming that national Governments must **control the setting of policy directions and priorities** of anti-crisis policy measures and programmes, with the participation of representatives from civil society, the local business community and other national stakeholders; programmes should not be adopted without social impact assessment, to ensure provision of adequate social protection for the poor and vulnerable groups and to mitigate any potential adverse effects of its implementation; and requesting the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this matter.

52. Exploring means to **strengthen coordination** between the United Nations and the international financial institutions regarding the economic and social aspects of structural adjustment programmes, particularly at the country level.

Commitment 9

Resources for social development

53. Full implementation of the outcome of the Summit will require mobilizing additional resources for social development on both national and international levels. There

is a new understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of resources that must be mobilized: it is recognized that in addition to the financial component, the resource base also includes various human capacities and skills, including organizational capacities. All of these kinds of resources should be tapped. It remains, nevertheless, essential for all the social actors, at all levels, to strive to increase the financial resources available to social development activities.

54. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the following further initiatives:

55. Encouraging Governments to undertake efforts to **increase domestic resources** for social development by, *inter alia*:

(a) **Reallocating public resources** to the social sectors, including, wherever possible, reducing military expenditure;

(b) Improving the **efficiency** in the use of available funds by raising quality standards; achieving a better balance between capital and recurrent expenditures; encouraging local, participatory control over programme decisions and expenditures; and ensuring better coordination among the many service providers;

(c) Strengthening mechanisms and policies to attract and manage **private investment,** thus freeing public resources for social investments;

(d) Facilitating the involvement and **active partnership** of the private sector and civil society in the provision of social services.

56. Supporting Governments in the establishment of guidelines for policies aimed at generating **domestic revenue** to pay for social services, social protection and other social programmes; this may include, *inter alia*:

(a) Equitable and progressive broadening of the tax base;

(b) Improving the efficiency of tax administration, including by collecting taxes at the source and at frequent intervals;

(c) Seeking new sources of revenue which simultaneously may discourage "public bads", such as greenhouse gas emissions;

(d) Various forms of public borrowing, including issuance of bonds and other financial instruments to finance capital works.

57. In support of national efforts to attract additional resources for social development, international action is urgently required in several important areas:

(a) Accelerating current initiatives and taking additional action to **reduce substantially the debts** of developing countries, particularly the heavily indebted low-income countries, by speeding up the process, by relaxing the eligibility criteria and by broadening and deepening the Highly-Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative;

(b) Reiterating the call to developed countries to achieve the long-standing commitment to the United Nations targets for **official development assistance** (ODA) of 0.7 per cent of GNP for overall ODA and 0.15 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries; in this connection, donor countries are urged to demonstrate their commitment to this goal by increasing, immediately and in each of the next five years, the proportion of GNP they contribute to ODA;

(c) Supporting the principle of mutual commitment between interested donor and recipient countries in the **20/20 initiative** by combining their efforts aimed at resource mobilization, *inter alia*, encouraging donors to devote 20 per cent of their ODA, and recipient countries to devote 20 per cent of their national budgets, to support programmes for basic social services.

58. Requesting the United Nations Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to undertake further study and to report to the Economic and Social Council on ways and means to address the issues relating to the **international dimensions of national tax policy** and international tax competition.

Commitment 10

International cooperation for social development

59. Although much of the responsibility and most of the activities to implement the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development rest at the national level, increasing global integration means that the need to strengthen international cooperation is even stronger than it was at the time of Copenhagen. Also, international support is instrumental to the success of the efforts of developing countries to achieve social development. In any case, social concerns rarely stop at national boundaries: international cooperation is essential in resolving problems and promoting social development.

60. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the following further initiative:

61. Supporting the efforts of the United Nations to develop a coherent set of **basic social development indicators** by the time of the second session of the Preparatory Committee; and for the further development of methodologies for social impact assessments; and encouraging the establishment or strengthening of national monitoring and evaluation units.

62. Strengthening cooperation **at the regional level**, which might include:

(a) Promoting dialogue among regional and subregional groups and organizations;

(b) Encouraging implementation of regional social development agendas where they exist;

(c) Increasing financial support for regional initiatives from donor countries and regional or subregional organizations.

63. Inviting the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a report containing operational proposals on enhancing social development for all through the provision of **global public goods** to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

64. Further strengthening the **Economic and Social Council** as the body primarily responsible for coordinating international action in follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits; this could include, *inter alia*:

(a) Fostering a closer working relationship with the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies;

(b) Expanding the agenda of the high-level meetings between the Council and the Bretton Woods institutions to consider the further implementation by those institutions of the agreements adopted by the United Nations conferences and summits;

(c) Encouraging greater participation by the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD in the meetings of the Council, and by the United Nations in meetings of the Interim and Development Committees, to ensure that United Nations resolutions on economic and social affairs are given due consideration by those institutions.

65. Promoting **South-South cooperation**, particularly in terms of economic and technical cooperation; and supporting a triangular mechanism whereby donor countries would provide financial support for South-South cooperation; considering the establishment of a generalized trust fund for triangular economic technical cooperation among developing countries.

United Nations A/AC.253/L.6

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
24 May 1999

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives
First session
17–28 May 1999
Agenda item 6
Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Bagher **Asadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Preparatory Committee held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 28 May 1999. The Preparatory Committee held _____ meetings (1st to _____) and a number of informal meetings. Also, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/28 of 19 November 1998, the Preparatory Committee established an in-session open-ended working group, which met from 24 to 28 May 1999.

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Cristian Maquieira (Chile), who also made a statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 17 May, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations made an introductory statement.

4. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Director-General of the International Labour Organization and the Vice-President and Head of the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank.

B. Attendance

5. The following States were represented: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Holy See, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab

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Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. The following units and programmes of the United Nations were represented: Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, United Nations Volunteers Programme.

7. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Council of Europe, European Community, International Committee of the Red Cross, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of African Unity and Organization of the Islamic Conference.

9. In accordance with decision 7 of the Preparatory Committee, adopted at its organizational session held in May 1998,[1] a number of non-governmental organizations also attended the session.

C. Officers

10. The officers of the Preparatory Committee, elected at its organizational session in 1998, remained:

Chairman:
Cristian Maquieira (Chile)

Vice-Chairman with rapporteurial responsibilities:
Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairmen:
Abdallah Baali (Algeria)
Ion Gorita (Romania)
Koos Richelle (Netherlands)

Ex officio:
Aurelio Fernandez (Spain)

D. Agenda

11. At its 1st meeting, on 17 May, the Preparatory Committee adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document A/AC.253/5. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Status of preparations for the special session.
3. Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.
4. Consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit.
5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.
6. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session.

E. Documentation

12. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (A/AC.253/5);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the status of preparations for the special session (A/AC.253/6);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/AC.253/7);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on further initiatives for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/AC.253/8);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on contributions from relevant organs, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system (A/AC.253/9 and Add.1-10);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on participation of non-governmental organizations (A/AC.253/10 and Add.1);

(g) Note verbale dated 20 May 1999 from the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/AC.253/11);

(h) Proposed organization of work of the session (A/AC.253/L.4);

(i) Proposed outcome of the first substantive session submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee (A/AC.253/L.5);

(j) Note by the Secretariat on participation of non-governmental organizations (A/AC.253/CRP.1).

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/53/45), chap. VI, sect. B.

United Nations A/AC.253/L.7

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
26 May 1999

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives
First session
17–28 May 1999
Agenda items 3 and 4

Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of informal consultations

Role of the United Nations system

The Preparatory Committee,

Recalling its decision 4, on the role of the United Nations system, taken at its organizational session in May 1998,

1. *Invites* all relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations to elaborate and submit proposals for further action and initiatives, as set out below;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as part of his overall preparations for the special session, to make available those proposals to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session in April 2000;

Commitment 1
An enabling environment for social development

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the International Labour Organization [and the Bretton Woods institutions-European Union (EU)] to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the conclusions of current research to assess the impact of globalization on social [policy/development-Canada] and to make recommendations for further action;

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2. *Also requests* the Secretary General, in conjunction with the funds and agencies of the United Nation system, to prepare proposals [in consultation with national Governments-Sudan] on sound principles and good practices for social policy for the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

Note: EU would replace the entire paragraph with following: Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labour Organization and other relevant organizations, to prepare proposals on sound principles for social policy for the Preparatory Committee at its second session, and to keep the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee informed about progress thereon.

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the development of [guidelines/principles-European Union] on the social responsibilities [of the private sector-United States of America to delete]; the International Labour Organization, [as well as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-European Union] in consultation with its tripartite constituents, is invited to contribute to the preparation of that report;

Note: The Group of 77 suggests combining paragraphs 1 to 3 under one chapeau, as follows, and adding a new subparagraph:

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in conjunction with relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, taking into account the reports of national Governments, to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session on the following:

(a) Assessment of the impact of globalization on the social policy of developing countries, based on conclusions of current research, and recommendations for further action;

[(b) Preparation of proposals on sound principles and good practices for social policy;]

Note: the Group of 77 requests that this text be kept in brackets pending further consideration.

(c) Development of guidelines on the role and social responsibilities of the private sector;

(d) Undertaking of social impact assessments of economic measures implemented by developing countries in the aftermath of financial crises, utilizing as a reference point comparisons between the financial crisis in Asia and similar crises that have been experienced previously or subsequently by some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; these studies should take into account previous work that has been done in this area and would make greater use of comparative country studies, both inter- and intraregional.

4. *Invites* the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to carry out a joint assessment of the sectors and products where action could be taken [by developed countries-United States to delete] to further open [their-United States to delete] markets to the exports of developing countries [and countries with economies in transition-Russian Federation et al.];

Note: EU and Japan expressed reservations on this subparagraph; the Group of 77 said it would propose new language.

5. *Invites* the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development and the World Bank to [jointly-Group of 77 to delete] study the feasibility of establishing an infrastructure fund to assist with the development of infrastructure for social development in developing countries [and countries with economies in transition-Russian Federation et al.];

Note: Japan expressed a reservation on this subparagraph; EU would delete it.

EU proposed a new paragraph:

6. *Invites* the Economic Commission for Europe to elaborate measures to support the transition toward a market economy and pluralist democracy in countries with economies in transition;

7. [*Invites* the International Law Commission to consider the development of/*Invites* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give priority consideration to the possibility of developing-Canada] an international legal instrument for combating corruption, and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this proposal;

Note: EU would replace the entire paragraph with the following text: *Encourages* the ongoing work on a draft convention against transnational organized crime and the additional protocols thereto, with a view to the speedy finalization of that work.

8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to review [obstacles and-EU] progress achieved since the Summit in the ratification and implementation of existing international conventions and covenants to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms[and to propose further steps for action-EU][and to urge States that have not yet done so, to do so-Sudan];

Note: EU suggests that the report should also be submitted to the Commission for Social Development.

Commitment 2
Poverty eradication

9. *Recommends* that the General Assembly at its special session adopt a global poverty reduction target to reduce by one half the number of people living in extreme poverty by the year 2015; and invites the President of the World Bank and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, when preparing their upcoming major reports on poverty reduction (the World Development Report 2000 and the second report on overcoming human poverty, respectively), to recommend additional strategies, policies and programmes for poverty eradication to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake further efforts to evaluate the achievement of international targets aiming to meet the basic human needs of all and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

11. *Invites* the International Labour Office, in cooperation with the relevant offices of the United Nations system and the International Social Security Association, to prepare a report for the second session of the Preparatory Committee containing recommendations for further action in the field of social protection to be taken at the special session; interested Governments are invited to provide support;

Commitment 3
Full employment

12. *Invites* the International Labour Office to prepare a programme of national and regional action plans for achieving full employment in an integrating world economy and to submit it to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; the report could propose

a strategy and plan of implementation which could include analytical and research components, policy implications and recommendations for action, and country-level operational activities;

13. *Invites* the United Nations in cooperation with the International Labour Office to prepare proposals to strengthen procedures and institutions for social dialogue; this should include specific proposals for strengthening representative employer and worker organizations;

14. *Invites* the World Bank and the International Labour Office to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its second session a brief report indicating the scope for increasing the employment potential of infrastructure development and the employment impact of World Bank infrastructure loans, as well as a strategy for expanding international cooperation in that field;

Commitment 4
Promoting social integration

15. *Requests* Governments to strengthen mechanisms for participation, cooperation and dialogue among all levels of government and other social actors as a contribution to integration, and invites the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to undertake a review of existing national institutional arrangements for social integration and report on the lessons learned to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; interested Governments are urged to support this project;

16. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to consider the development of an international legal instrument for the protection of the family;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on suggested means to strengthen the capacity of organizations working for conflict resolution and conflict prevention;

Commitment 6
Universal and equitable access to high-quality education and health services

18. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank to formulate a global action plan for education for all by the year 2015, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

19. *Invites* the World Health Organization, in consultation with the World Bank and other interested organizations of the United Nations system, to elaborate a Global action plan for basic health services by the year 2015, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

Commitment 7
Acceleration of development in Africa and in the least developed countries

20. *Invites* the United Nations Secretariat, in conjunction with the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, to review again the proposal to establish a commodities diversification facility and to make a recommendation to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, in view of the importance of reducing dependence on one or a few commodities;

21. *Encourages* the twenty-five African countries most affected by the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome to adopt a target of reducing infection levels in young people by 25 per cent by 2005, and invites the World Health Organization, in conjunction with the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome to prepare and propose means for implementing a strategy for achieving that target;

Commitment 8
Inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes

22. Affirming that national Governments must control the setting of policy directions and priorities of anti-crisis policy measures and programmes, with the participation of representatives from the civil society, the local business community and other national stakeholders, and that programmes should not be adopted without social impact assessment, to ensure provision of adequate social protection for the poor and vulnerable groups and to mitigate any potential adverse effects of its implementation, *requests* the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this matter;

Commitment 9
Resources for social development

23. *Requests* the United Nations Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to undertake further study and to report to the Economic and Social Council on ways and means to address the issues relating to the international dimensions of national tax policy and international tax competition;

Commitment 10
International cooperation for social development

24. *Supports* the efforts of the United Nations to develop a coherent set of basic social development indicators by the time of the second session of the Preparatory Committee and for the further development of methodologies for social impact assessments, and encourages the establishment or strengthening of national monitoring and evaluation units;

25. *Invites* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session containing operational proposals on enhancing social development for all through the provision of global public goods;

26. *Urges* all concerned to promote South-South cooperation, particularly in terms of economic and technical cooperation, support a triangular mechanism whereby donor countries would provide financial support for South-South cooperation and consider the establishment of a generalized trust fund for triangular economic technical cooperation among developing countries.

United Nations A/AC.253/L.8

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
27 May 1999

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives

First session
17–28 May 1999
Agenda items 3 and 4

Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Further preparations for the special session

The Preparatory Committee,

Recalling its decision 2 on issues to be addressed, taken at its organizational session in May 1998, in which, *inter alia*, it decided that the task of the Preparatory Committee is to review and appraise the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, on the basis of input provided by the Commission for Social Development, and to propose concrete actions and initiatives for further implementation of the Copenhagen commitments,

Recalling also its decision 3 on coordination with the Commission for Social Development, taken at its organizational session, in which, *inter alia*, it recommended that the Commission be entrusted with the responsibility of acting as the forum for national reporting,

Recalling further its decision 6 on arrangements for future sessions, taken at its organizational session, in which, *inter alia*, it decided that the Preparatory Committee would hold its second session from 3 to 14 April 2000,

1. *Decides* to adopt the procedure set out below for preparation of the outcome of the special session, and the indicative calendar for the period leading up to the second session, annexed to the present decision, to ensure the best possible preparation of that session;

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2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange for the convening of inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations of the Preparatory Committee during the week of 30 August to 3 September 1999, in order to consider further the Chairman's working draft text (A/AC.253/L.5, adapted to reflect the decision on the role of the United Nations system (A/AC.253/L.7) taken by the Preparatory Committee), including proposals made by delegations, with a view to preparing a new, integrated Chairman's working draft text by January 2000;

3. *Invites* Governments that have not yet done so to submit national reports, taking note of the note verbale of the Secretary-General requesting submission by 30 June 1999;

4. *Invites* the organizations, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and any other organizations which have been requested to provide reports, studies or documentation to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, to make that work available to the Secretary-General no later than 1 January 2000; each of the documents submitted should contain a short, precise summary of conclusions on the assessment of issues and proposals for further action;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make available to all delegations a compilation of all the summaries and proposals for further action contained in those documents no later than the end of January 2000;

6. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-eighth regular session (8–18 February 2000), to undertake the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, and to transmit the results of its deliberations to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange for the convening of inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations of the Preparatory Committee during the week of 21 to 25 February 2000, immediately following the thirty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development, in order to consider further the new, integrated Chairman's working draft text and the compilation of the summaries and proposals taken from the documentation provided by the United Nations system;

8. *Further requests* the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, on the basis of the outcome of the Commission for Social Development and the inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations held in February 2000, to provide a further, revised working draft text to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

Annex

Indicative calendar

30 June 1999	Submission to the Secretary-General of national reports on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.
30 August– 3 September 1999	Inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations of the Preparatory Committee to consider further the Chairman's working draft text (A/AC.253/L.5, adapted to reflect the decision on the role of the United Nations system (A/AC.253/L.7) taken by the Preparatory Committee) including proposals made by delegations, with a view to

	preparing a new, integrated Chairman's working draft text by January 2000.
1 January 2000	Submission by the United Nations system and other organizations of requested reports, studies and documentation, with short, precise summaries of conclusions on the assessment of issues and proposals for further action.
	Presentation of new, integrated Chairman's working draft text.
End of January 2000	Secretary-General to make available to all delegations a compilation of all the summaries and proposals for further action contained in those documents.
8–18 February 2000	Thirty-eighth regular session of the Commission for Social Development, which will undertake an overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit.
21–25 February 2000	Inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations of the Preparatory Committee to consider further the new, integrated Chairman's working draft text and the compilation of the summaries and proposals taken from the documentation provided by the United Nations system, with a view to the preparation of a further, revised Chairman's working draft text.
March 2000	Presentation by the Chairman, on the basis of the outcome of the session of the Commission for Social Development and the inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations, of a further, revised working draft text to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.
3–14 April 2000	Second session of the Preparatory Committee.
26–30 June 2000	Special session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives, Geneva.

United Nations A/AC.253/L.9

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
27 May 1999

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives
First session
17–28 May 1999
Agenda items 3 and 4
Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of informal consultations

The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision at its fifty-third session:

Further preparations for the special session

The General Assembly decides:

(a) That the Preparatory Committee shall hold inter-sessional open-ended consultations from 30 August to 3 September 1999 in order to consider further the Chairman's working draft[1] and the additional proposals made thereto, as contained in the annex to the report of the Preparatory Committee,[2] with a view to preparing a new, integrated Chairman's working draft by January 2000;

(b) That the Preparatory Committee shall hold additional inter-sessional open-ended consultations from 22 to 25 February 2000 in order to consider the new, integrated Chairman's working draft, together with a compilation of summaries and proposals provided by the United Nations system, with a view to the preparation of a revised Chairman's working draft for submission to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

[1] A/AC.253/L.5.
[2] See A/54/___, annex ___.

99-15754 (E) 270599

United Nations A/AC.253/L.10

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
27 May 1999

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives
First session
17–28 May 1999
Agenda item 5
Provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee

Draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee (3–14 April 2000)

1. Adoption of the agenda and organizational matters.
2. Preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives:
   (a) Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session of the General Assembly;
   (b) Consideration of the draft final document of the special session;[1]
   (c) Consideration of any other proposals to be submitted to the special session;
   (d) Other matters.
3. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session.

[1] Incorporating the results of the thirty-eighth regular session of the Commission for Social Development on the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, as well as the results of the informal inter-sessional open-ended consultations of the Preparatory Committee.

99-15748 (E) 270599

United Nations A/AC.253/L.11

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
27 May 1999

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives
First session
17–28 May 1999
Agenda item 1
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Draft decisions submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group on Organizational Matters

Draft decision I

Arrangements for the special session

The Preparatory Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

The General Assembly:

1. Invites Member States to participate in its special session on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development at the highest political level possible;

2. Decides that the special session should have a Plenary and an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole;

3. Further decides:

(a) That observers may make statements in the debate in plenary;

(b) To invite States members of the specialized agencies of the United Nations that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

(c) To call for the participation of associate members of the regional commissions of the United Nations in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and the preparatory process thereof, in the same

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capacity of observer that held for their participation in the World Summit for Social Development;

(d) That representatives of United Nations programmes and other entities in the United Nations system may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Draft decision II

Title of the special session

The Preparatory Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

The General Assembly decides that the special session will be entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world".

Draft decision III

Accreditation and modalities for participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session

The Preparatory Committee decides to defer consideration of the accreditation and modalities of participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session to the inter-sessional open-ended consultations to be held from 30 August to 3 September 1999, subject to a decision by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, with a view to adopting a decision in a one-day resumed session of the Preparatory Committee before the end of 1999.